

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089690
ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 071922Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T STATE 089690

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANA 1646 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA
KHARTOUM ADDIS ABABA CAIRO AMMAN LONDON DATED APR 05:

QTE:S E C R E T SANA 1646

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, ETCU
SUBJ: CUBAN INTENTIONS IN ERITREA

1. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR TO YAR IS PRESENTLY PAYING
FAREWELL CALLS IN SANA PRIOR TO BEING POSTED TO TRIPOLI.
IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON APRIL 4, SUDANESE
AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED HIS VISIT TO ADEN WHERE HE IS ALSO
CREDITED.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE RAISED QUESTION OF PDRY SHIFT FROM
SUPPORT OF SOMALI AND ERITREAN INTERESTS TO OPPOSITION AND
WAS TOLD BY PDRY FONMIN MUTI THAT LATTER HAD BEEN GIVEN
SPECIFIC ASSURANCES BY CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT CUBAN
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FORCES WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ERITREA. PDRY POLICY,
SAID MUTI, LOOKED FOR AUTONOMOUS STATUS FOR ERITREA.
MUTI CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY MENGISTU THAT
ETHIOPIA SOUGHT THE SAME. THUS ELF OFFICES STILL
FUNCTION IN ADEN AND ELF WOUNDED ARE TREATED THERE.
AS FOR OGADEN, MUTI SAID PDRY COULD NOT COUNTENANCE
INVASION.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO STATED HE TOLD BY PLO REP IN ADEN THAT SOVIETS HAVE "GUARANTEED" PDRY FROM ANY ATTACK BY NEIGHBORS. AMBASSADOR WONDERS, HOWEVER, IF SOVIETS AND CUBANS MIGHT NOT HELP PDRY UNIFY SOUTH ARABIA BY INVADING NORTH AND EAST (YAR AND DHOFAR).

COMMENT: SUDANESE IS EXCELLENT SOURCE, EXACT AND INSIGHTFUL. HE SAYS THAT WHETHER OR NOT THIS ACCOUNT OF CUBANS IN ERITREA IS TRUE, MUTI GAVE IMPRESSION OF BELIEVING IT. YEMENIS (ALONG WITH US) FULLY EXPECT CUBANS TO PLUNGE INTO ERITREA. SUDANESE DOES TOO BUT, IF THEY DO, IT MAY CREATE IDEOLOGICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC STRAINS WITHIN PDRY. ON OTHER HAND, IT MAY PROVIDE IMPETUS TO RADICAL GROUPS WITHIN PDRY WHO WANT USE MILITARY POWER TO PROSECUTE REVOLUTIONARY DESIGNS IN PENINSULA.
SCOTES UNQTE VANCE

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